

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entering this Amendment, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An eye drop container comprising:
a container body having a liquid storage portion for containing liquid therein; and
an instilling portion for allowing the liquid to flow out in an opened stage;,
~~wherein the container body includes~~ an aerating device provided at the bottom of
the container body thereof and having a filter element and a check valve for allowing ambient air
to flow in from the outside and preventing the liquid from flowing out; and
an attachable bottom cap for covering the aerating device, the aerating device
being allowed to contact a floor surface when the bottom cap is removed.

8. (Currently Amended) The eye drop container as defined in claim [[7]] 27,
~~further comprising wherein the aerating device has a receiving portion contacting a floor surface~~
and supporting the container body.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The eye drop container as defined in claim [[7]] 27,
wherein the check valve has a duck-bill type construction including a pair of plate-shaped
portions contactable with each other at end portions thereof, and is closed when the pair of plate-
shaped portions contact each other at the end portions thereof or opened when the pair of plate-
shaped portions are moved away from each other at the end portions thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim
8, wherein the check valve has a duck-bill type construction including a pair of plate-shaped

portions contactable with each other at end portions thereof, and is closed when the pair of plate-shaped portions contact each other at the end portions thereof or opened when the pair of plate-shaped portions are moved away from each other at the end portions thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 7, further comprising a cap attachable to the container body and including an opening member for opening the instilling portion in an unopened stage and a valve member for allowing the liquid to flow out and preventing ambient air from flowing into the container.

16. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 8, further comprising a cap attachable to the container body and including an opening member for opening the instilling portion in an unopened stage and a valve member for allowing the liquid to flow out and preventing ambient air from flowing into the container.

17. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 7, wherein the filter element is designed not for allowing entry of a source of contamination present in the ambient air.

18. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 8, wherein the filter element is designed not for allowing entry of a source of contamination present in the ambient air.

19. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 7, wherein the aerating device is designed for allowing entry of the ambient air into the liquid storage portion from the outside.

20. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 8, wherein the aerating device is designed for allowing entry of the ambient air into the liquid storage portion from the outside.

21. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 15, wherein the valve element prevents the ambient air from flowing into the container when the valve element is in tight contact with the opening member from its outside and allows the liquid to flow out when the valve element is away from the opening member due to pressure of the liquid.

22. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 16, wherein the valve element prevents the ambient air from flowing into the container when the valve element is in tight contact with the opening member from its outside and allows the liquid to flow out when the valve element is away from the opening member due to pressure of the liquid.

23. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 7, wherein the liquid is allowed to flow out in association with reduction in volume of the container body under the opened stage.

24. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 7, wherein the filter element is designed not for allowing entry of a source of contamination present in the ambient air into the container, and the aerating device is designed for allowing entry of the ambient air into the liquid storage portion from the outside.

25. (Previously Presented) The eye drop container as defined in claim 24, wherein the liquid is allowed to flow out in association with reduction in volume of the container body under the opened stage.

26. (New) The eye drop container as defined in claim 7, wherein the bottom cap is formed integrally with the container body.

Application No. 10/584,656
Paper Dated: February 8, 2010
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of October 8, 2009
Attorney Docket No. 0388-061892

27. (New) The eye drop container as defined in claim 26, wherein the bottom cap formed integrally with the container body is separable from the container body.

28 (New) The eye drop container as defined in claim 7, wherein the aerating device is opposite to the instilling portion and further comprises an outer supporting surface to contact the floor surface when the bottom cap is removed, wherein the filter and the check valve are spaced from the outer supporting surface and between the instilling portion and the outer supporting surface of the aerating device.